

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00931 201026Z

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SUBJ: TANZANIAN AND INDIAN PRESIDENTS COMMENT ON ANGOLA

1. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN THE INDIAN PRESS JANUARY 19, TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE CRITICIZED U.S. POLICY ON ANGOLA AT A DELHI PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 18 WINDING UP A THREE-DAY VISIT TO INDIA. NYERERE JUSTIFIED SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE MPLA BY STATING "IF MY COUNTRY IS ATTACKED BY SOUTH AFRICA I'LL CALL FOR AID INCLUDING TOOPS". HE SAID THAT TO EQUATE THE FLOW OF ARMS AND SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ("A CONTINUING PROCESS" FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT) WITH CURRENT SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSION WAS "ABSOLUTELY NONSENSE". AT THIS POINT IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE MYERERE REPORTEDLY DISCLOSED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD INFORMED AFRICAN LEADERS THE USG WOULD BE WILLING TO SEEK SOUTH AFRICA'S WITHDRAWAL PROVIDED THE OAU ASKED THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS TO WITHDRAW. NYERERE IS QUOTED IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS AS COMMENTING "THIS WAS AN ARROGANT GESTURE". (THE COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY REPORTS HIS COMMENT AS "ARROGANT AND UNCALLED FOR").

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 00931 201026Z

2. MYERERE FURTHER SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW "WHAT

WASHINGTON IS WORRIED ABOUT". HE DENIED AFRICA IS "GOING COMMUNIST" BUT SAID THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECEIVE COMMUNIST ARMS BECAUSE "IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO GET ARMS..." NYERERE SAID AS AN ASIDE THAT AT ONE TIME IT WAS THOUGHT "I WAS WORKING FOR CHAIRMAN MAO IN AFRICA".

3. NYERERE WAS ALSO ASKED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHAT HAD EMERGED FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS IN INDIA ABOUT INDIA'S POLICY ON THE QUESTION. (NYERERE HAD SEVERAL PRIVATE TALKS JANUARY 16 WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN IN WHICH ANGOLA REPORTEDLY FIGURED PROMINENTLY BUT NO OFFICIAL RELEASES OR BRIEFINGS WERE PROVIDED. THE TALKS WERE ONLY SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN AN EXTREMELY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE). NYERERE REPLIED THAT INDIAN HAD ALWAYS "SUPPORTED US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COLONIALISM AND RACIALISM AND I FIND NO EVIDENCE THAT INDIA INTENDS TO RELAX IN THAT SUPPORT FOR US".

4. PRESIDENT AHMED PROVIDED THE ONLY HARD COMMENT ON ANGOLA BY AN INDIAN OFFICIAL DURING NYERERE'S VISIT BY EXPRESSING HIS COUNTRY'S "DEEP CONCERN" AT THE ANGOLAN STRIFE AND REPORTEDLY CONDEMNING SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERVENTION AT A BANQUET IN THE TANZANIAN LEADER'S HONOR JANUARY 17. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT INDIA "HAD FULL FAITH IN AFRICA'S CAPACITY AND DETERMINATION TO RESOLVE ITS PROBLEMS".
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